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ABSTRACT

This book contains 21 essays by a diverse group of scholars who examine the current state of family theory and research and look ahead to challenging issues likely to be raised in the future. Part one contains seven essays on the rethinking of conceptual models, including "Bringing the Institution Back In," "Changes of Heart: Family Dynamics in Historical Perspective," "The Child in Family and School: Agency and the Workings of Time," "Conscripting Kin: Reflections on Family, Generation, and Culture," "A Cross-Cultural Perspective: The Japanese Family as a Unit in Moral Socialization," "Perspectives on Family Theory: Families in History and Beyond," and "Perspectives on Family Theory: New Myths From Old." Part two contains five essays on the rethinking of research on nuclear families, including "Mothers, Fathers, Sons, and Daughters: Gender Differences in Family Formation and Parenting Style," Family Transitions and Children's Functioning: The Case of Parental Conflict and Divorce," "The Structuring of Family Decision-Making: Personal and Societal Sources and Some Consequences for Children," "Work and Family Dynamics," and "Perspectives on Research in the Early Years of Family Life: Costs and Benefits of Nontraditional Variations." Part three contains four essays on the rethinking of research on family networks in middle and old age, including: "An Intergenerational Family Congruence Model," "The Prolongation of Life and the Extension of Family Relationships: The Families of the Oldest Old," "The Importance of Family in Advanced Old Age: The Family is 'Forever,'" and "Perspectives on Research With Older Families: Contributions of Older Adults to Families and Family Theory." Part four contains four case studies, including "Developmental Process: Mother-Child and Father-Child Interaction During the Second Year of Life," "Continuity and Change in the Transition to Parenthood: A Tale of Two Families," "The Life and Family of Karl Schulz," and "Perspectives on the Use of Case Studies: All it Takes is One." Part five includes one summation essay, "Issues in Defining a Research Agenda for the 1990s." Each essay includes a reference list. (MDM)